Alberta Library Board 1989/90

12th Annual Report

Alberta
CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

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Pictured on the front cover:

1. *Nanko Dubbelboer, Chair of the Shortgrass Library System Board, breaking ground for the new headquarters building in Medicine Hat.*
2. *Chair May Rowe and Alberta Library Board member Doreen Lewis turn the sod for the Peace Library System in Grande Prairie.*
3. *The Honourable Doug Main and director Linda Giffen poised before an artist's rendering of the new Yellowhead Regional Library headquarters in Spruce Grove.*
4. *The Marigold Library System logo in the new headquarters building.*
5. *The new Parkland Regional Library headquarters in Lacombe.*

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

The Honourable Doug Main
Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism
419 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Minister:

In accordance with the Libraries Act, I am pleased to provide you with the 12th Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1990.

This year's report highlights the special creativity and innovative approaches to library services and programmes that are evident throughout Alberta. As a new member of the Alberta Library Board I am very encouraged and impressed by the enthusiastic and imaginative ways the library community provides service to its publics.

It has been a pleasure serving as the Chairman and on behalf of the Alberta Library Board I wish you continued success in your portfolio.

Respectfully submitted,

Percy J. Woods
Chairman

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

BOARD MEMBERS

Bonnie Haave, Edmonton • Marjorie Haugen, Cowley • Doreen Lewis, Grande Prairie
Sheilagh Ross, Camrose • Joan Sumner, Calgary • Wanda White, Brooks • Percy Woods, St. Albert

What is the Alberta Library Board?

The Alberta Library Board, made up of seven citizens from across Alberta, functions as an advisor to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. The members are appointed for three year terms by the Minister to advise him on matters relating to public libraries in Alberta.

The Board's statement of mission is:

"The primary aim of the Alberta Library Board is to advise the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library services in Alberta."

"The Alberta Library Board promotes communication among groups in the library community. To support provincial library growth the Board will encourage library leadership and improve awareness of the public library's role in a democratic society."

Now in its twelfth year of operation, the Board derives its authority from the Libraries Act, Chapter L-12.1, 1983 of the Statutes of Alberta. Its mandate includes:

- Advising the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism as set out in Section 6 of the Libraries Act
- Considering matters referred to it by the Minister
- Receiving input from library boards and trustees, library associations, and the Library Services Branch
- Providing mechanisms through which individuals and groups can discuss library development and inform the Board on these matters
- Recommending to the Minister regarding study and research awards
- Initiating research and making recommendations to the Minister on the results
- Co-operating with library groups to encourage development
- Making recommendations on the establishment and dissolution of community libraries

Who is the Alberta Library Board?

1989/90 Alberta Library Board

From left to right Sheilagh Ross, Doreen Lewis, Sue Dutton, Wanda White, Percy Woods, Marjorie Haugen (Missing: John Solodzuk and Robert Maskell)

Alberta Library Board members come from seven geographical locations spread across Alberta. As members of this advisory board, they represent public libraries and travel throughout the province to meet with library groups, trustees, librarians, and patrons.

John Solodzuk
Two Hills

Percy J. Woods
St. Albert (app. Sept 1989)

Robert Maskell (ret. Aug. 1989)
Edmonton

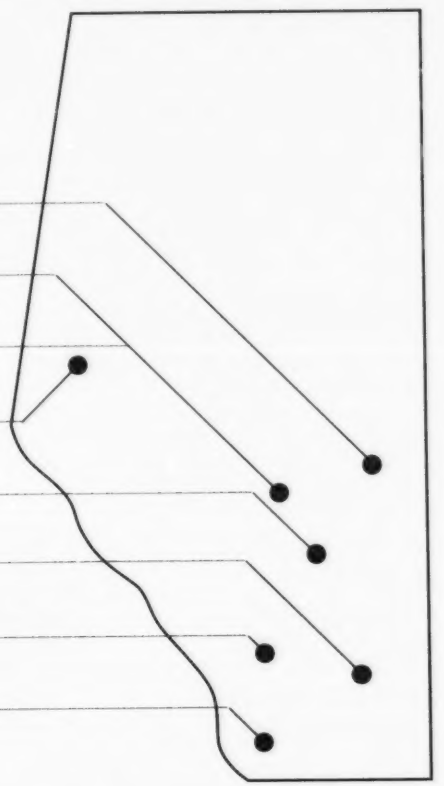
Doreen Lewis
Grande Prairie (app. Sept. 1989)

Sheilagh Ross
Camrose

Wanda White
Brooks

Sue Dutton
Calgary

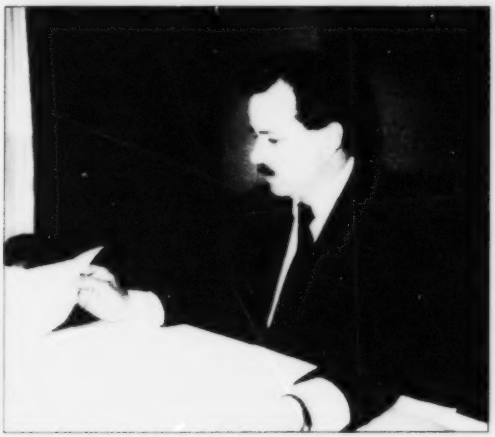
Marjorie Haugen
Cowley



"Members of the Alberta Library Board are appointed from all parts of Alberta."

New Members

Doreen Lewis, from Grande Prairie was appointed to the Board in September 1989.



Percy J. Woods of St. Albert was appointed to the Board to replace Robert Maskell and also took over the reins of chairman.

Retiring Members

Robert Maskell, after serving on the Board for five years, retired in August of 1989. Mr. Maskell served in his last year as Board chairman and was also interested in developing a book exchange with Harbin, China.

John Solodzuk's term of service with the Alberta Library Board ended in March 1990. John, who farms near Two Hills, Alberta, was very active in the encouragement of system development in the northeast section of the province and studying the rural grant structure.

Sue Dutton also retired from the Board this spring. Sue previously served on the Calgary Public Library Board and as chairman of the Alberta Library Board.

John Solodzuk, Two Hills

Mr. Maskell with Lois Peterson, Librarian and Val Tucker, Chairman of the Drayton Valley Library Board on the occasion of the opening of the Drayton Valley Public Library.

Sue Dutton, pictured in the middle, with Board vice-chairman Wanda White and Library Services staff member, Brenda Baron.

Board Activities

In the following pages, this annual report chronicles the many activities the Board has been directly or indirectly involved in while carrying out its stated mission during 1989/90.

The Board would like to draw attention to the many librarians, trustees, volunteers and library associations that have developed creative solutions to their problems. Not only changing times but the increased pace of change have forced the library community to re-think many issues. Add to this a determined effort to communicate between libraries and their associations and the wonderful result is improved library services for Alberta. The Board has been eager to facilitate library communication — knowing that there are many valuable ideas "out there" waiting to be shared.

Brooks Public Library — Summer Program "Children and Pinata"

Creative Librarianship Award

In 1986, the former Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Dennis Anderson, established through the Alberta Library Board the Creative Librarianship Award. The purpose of this award is to identify, promote and facilitate the sharing of creative public library service ideas in Alberta. This award is presented annually at the Alberta Library Conference held in Jasper to the librarian or library board who has developed a dynamic new approach to the provision of library services.

Many excellent entries were submitted to the Board prior to the deadline of November 30, 1989. These were reviewed by a committee of the Board and judged on the following criteria: creativity, innovativeness, impact on the library (increased membership and/or community awareness), practicality (preparation time, co-ordination, staff and volunteer time and cost), adaptability to other libraries and the success of the project to fill a specific defined need.

The committee had a difficult task in naming only one winner — the quality and creativity of this year's submissions was exceptional.

Sherrill Robinson, librarian of the Shannon Municipal Library in Sexsmith, was chosen as the winner of the 1989 Creative Librarianship Award.

Sherrill's project successfully resulted in involving the entire community in a Halloween evening which resulted in an increase in circulation of books for teens of approximately 40%, a substantial increase in new library memberships, as well as providing a fun avenue to reduce vandalism in the community on Halloween.

The project was so successful that it has celebrated its fourth anniversary this year! Congratulations to Sherrill Robinson for her innovativeness and creativity in delivering exceptional public library service.

The Shannon Library Halloween Air Band/Lip Sync Competition.

Sherrill Robinson presenting her Air Band/Lip Sync idea at Potpourri at the Alberta Library Conference.

Sherrill Robinson accepting the plaque for the Creative Librarianship Award from the Honourable Doug Main.

Trustee Development

During the past year, the Trustee Development Committee, chaired by Sue Dutton, has continued its work of assessing the need for further trustee training in Alberta and examining various options for undertaking this in the future.

This committee was established by the Alberta Library Board in February 1989 as a joint project with the Alberta Library Trustees' Association, now represented by Renee Schleussing, and the Library Association of Alberta, represented by Audrey Mark. Iris English also sits on the committee as a non-affiliated trustee representative.

In its October 1989 report to these organizations, the committee made four recommendations for action:

1. To enable every library board in Alberta to have a Board Development Workshop every three to six years.
2. To provide every library trustee in Alberta with a trustee binder in the first year of the project and, in subsequent years, all new trustees with a binder.
3. To provide an annual orientation workshop for new library board chairpeople.
4. To extend the mandate of the Trustee Development Committee to develop strategies to implement the above recommendations.

The first three recommendations were accepted in principle by the library groups involved, and the committee's mandate was extended until February 1991.

The Alberta Library Trustees' Association accepted a one-time pilot program grant from the Alberta Library Board and agreed to sponsor the first New Chairs Workshop which will be held in the fall of 1990. ALTA is working with the Trustee Development Committee to plan and organize this program, which will then be evaluated for presentation as an annual event in the future.

The Committee is also currently developing an implementation plan for the trustee binder and expansion of the Board Development Program.

> *"If you build a better mousetrap you will catch better mice."*
>
> George Gobel

Potpourri 1989

Back by popular demand! The Alberta Library Board sponsored the fourth Potpourri session at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper. This session has become a favourite for many, highlighting innovative library projects from all corners of the province.

Potpourri maintained its mini-conference format with 12 sessions running concurrently. Each speaker gave a 15 minute round table presentation to approximately 20 participants and each presentation was repeated four times.

Programs were showcased from: Banff, Barrhead, Camrose, Cardston, Drumheller, High River, Lac La Biche, Leduc, Lethbridge, Marigold, Olds and Parkland Regional Library System. Librarians and trustees came together to share ideas that work.

> *"If a man can have only one kind of sense, let him have common sense — if he has that and uncommon sense too, he is not far from genius."*
>
> Henry Ward Beecher

Rural Library Training Project

For the last year, Sue Dutton of the Alberta Library Board, served as chair of the Advisory Committee for the Rural Library Training Project. This Advisory Committee is made up of representatives of various associations and groups involved with, and interested in, this innovative project which provides distance education for library staff in Alberta's rural libraries. At present the program is suffering due to funding restraint at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. The Board continues to be a strong advocate of this program which gives volunteers and librarians in small communities the basic skills needed to operate their libraries.

Conference Attendance

The Canadian Library Association Conference, Edmonton, June 1989.

When Sharon Wood, the first North American female to climb Mount Everest, spoke about risk taking at the luncheon sponsored by the Alberta Library Board, she held the attention of her large audience. The idea of calculated risk taking in order to test oneself, and to know oneself better seemed to set the tone for the whole conference — according to conversations heard in the Conference venue hallways.

Unfortunately, librarians in the past have often fitted the stereotype of the prim and proper character whose greatest risk taking consisted of requesting noisy patrons to "stop talking." Today, very few librarians fit this mold — especially after the discussions heard in the various sessions. In future, if Sharon Wood's message results in action then a dynamic new spirit will sweep across the libraries of Canada, making them powerhouses of information, education and discussion.

The session on Literacy in the 1990's showed that although Canada came only late in 1987 to literacy programs, she is rapidly developing country-wide programs under the Secretary of State which are guaranteed $110 million over a period of five years. UNESCO defines literacy as "a group of behaviours and skills a person needs to be able to function well in his own life and in the community," and with one million persons basically illiterate and four million functionally illiterate in Canada, these programs are essential.

Some ideas which came from this session were that there needs to be more learning materials for illiterate adults and immigrants; more publishers must be encouraged to publish suitable content; and there should be more material about our own country.

Other organizations beside libraries must be involved in these programs, such as labour unions and business. In addition, public awareness has to be encouraged, libraries need to provide more information services and research into the problem must be undertaken.

Another worthwhile session was that concerning school and public library co-operation. Some provinces are already leading the way, especially New Brunswick where a very large percentage of school libraries are also public libraries and where the combined staffs meet monthly to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The social programs of the Conference were excellent and varied, and the exhibitors' stands interesting and informational as usual, especially to those who returned home bearing photographs of themselves proudly clutching a coveted Oscar.

Liaison with Other Groups in the Library Community

In order to gain an overview of current concerns in the library community the Alberta Library Board met with several groups during 1989-90.

In April 1989 at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, Board chairman Bob Maskell, and vice-chairman Wanda White, met with the executives of the Alberta Library Trustees' Association, the Library Association of Alberta and the Learning Resources Council. Many matters of mutual concern were discussed.

In September and January the Development and Bibliographic Services units of the Library Services Branch made detailed presentations to the Board. All members of the Board, especially new members, found this a source of invaluable information.

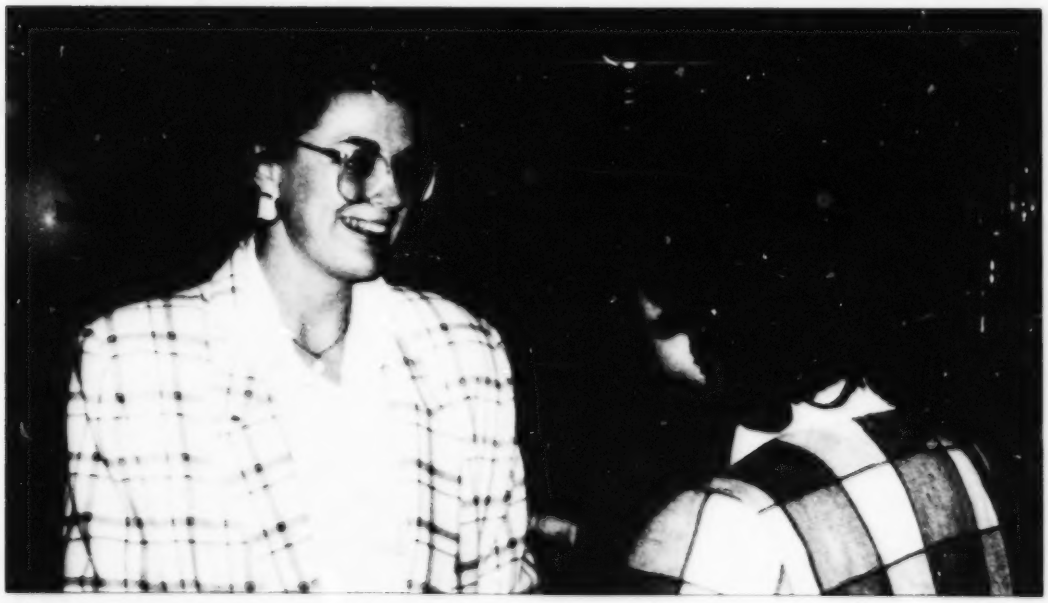
In October the Board travelled to Peace River to meet with the executive of the Peace Library System prior to the regular Peace Library System Board meeting. Time did not permit attendance at the entire meeting but the Board welcomed the opportunity to meet members from many communities.

In November 1989 the Board exchanged views with the chairmen of the five existing systems regarding their particular concerns. Topics included the proposed goods and services tax, funding, services to schools and standards of service. In January 1990 members of the Board, along with Library Services Branch personnel, met with representatives of Area 7. The three largest libraries voiced concerns about the possibility of a new system and how it would affect them in view of their size and proximity to Edmonton. Possible changes in boundaries were discussed. The Board encouraged further studying and planning.

Meeting dedicated library workers from various parts of the province has been an enjoyable and enlightening experience and has provided the Board with first-hand information on many issues.

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it."

H.E. Luccock



Sheilagh Ross conversing with Arlene Dutchak, chairman of the Alberta Library Trustees' Association.

The Alberta Library Bursary

The Board's educational program was given a healthy boost in 1989 when the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism increased the available funds from $4,000 to $10,000. From a field of 18 applicants, a $4,000 bursary was awarded to Katheryn Kirchmeir of Edmonton. Congratulations, and the Board looks forward to seeing the many fine qualities Ms. Kirchmeir will bring to her career in children's librarianship.

The Board felt the remaining $6,000 could be best used by applying it to the recommendations made by the Trustee Development Committee — in partic ılar a workshop for new board chairmen of public libraries.

Library Services

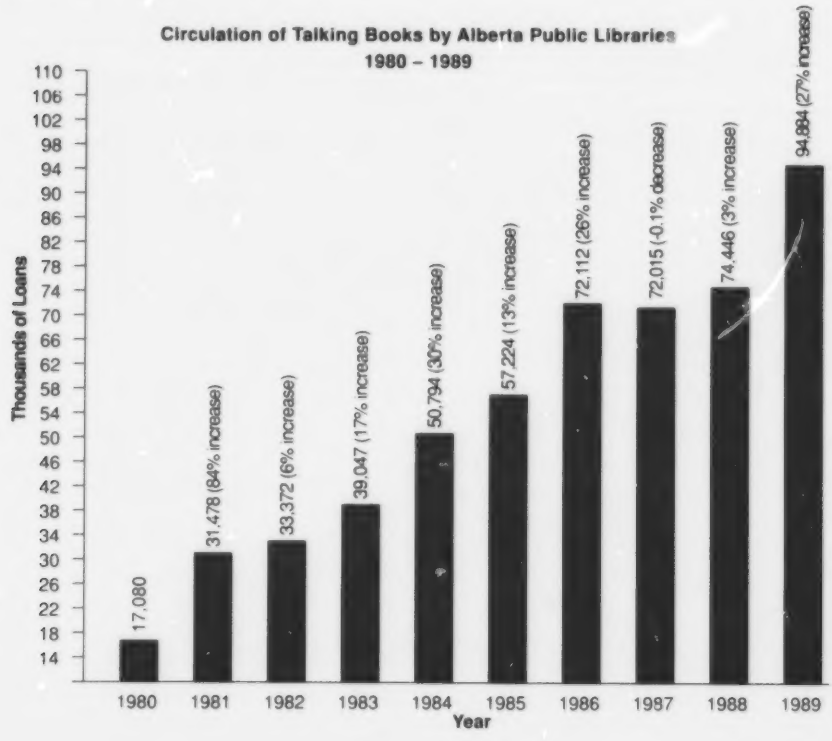
The Board has always had a close interest in the special services provided through the Library Services Branch to public libraries and their patrons. In 1989, 43,305 volumes were loaned from the Multilingual Biblioservice to public libraries in Alberta, an increase of 9% over the previous year. The five most popular languages were French, German, Chinese Dutch and Vietnamese. As of December 31, 1989, the multilingual collection consisted of 60,163 volumes in 30 languages. 11,958 talking books were loaned during 1989. Alberta public libraries reported 94,844 talking book loans during this period, an increase of 27% over 1988. The Board believes that continuation of these services for Albertans who require material other than conventionally printed English languages books is vital.

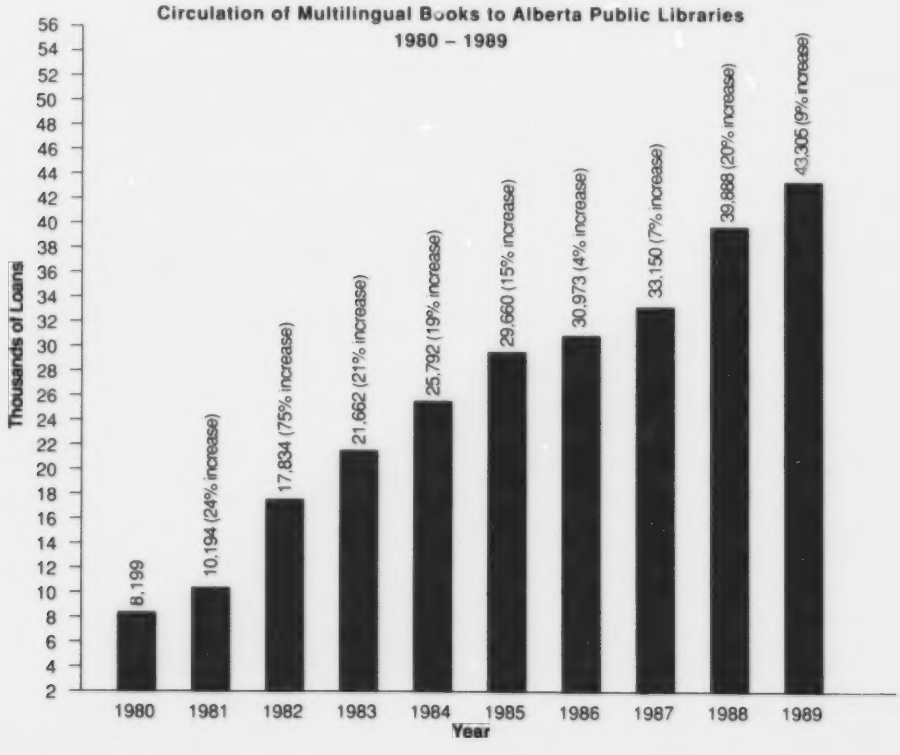
In June 1989, Provincial and Territorial Library Directors agreed that Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario would co-operate in the future development of their respective last copy fiction collections, and in making these resources available nationally. The Library Services Branch subsequently initiated a major project involving the weeding and retrospective conversion of Alberta's last copy fiction collection. By the end of the fiscal year, the collection had been substantially reduced to include only those materials not commonly available elsewhere, and the entire collection has been entered into the UTLAS database. This important national resource provides access to material not retained elsewhere in Canada's library network and demonstrates Alberta's leadership in conserving and sharing of resources.

Alberta's public libraries continued to demonstrate the spirit of sharing as they processed 79,869 interlibrary loans in 1989, broken down as follows:

- 25,204 requests were handled by Library Service Branch
- 14,245 items were loaned by resource libraries in response to Zenith telephone information requests
- 36,705 items were loaned within library systems
- 3,715 items were filled exclusive of the provincial interlibrary loan network

Of the requests processed by Library Services Branch, 56% were filled by public libraries and the libraries of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary filled 13.48%. The Board is impressed that Alberta public libraries filled 85% of the total number of interlibrary loan requests made by their patrons, an indication of the growing self sufficiency of the collections in the Province. In addition to sharing resources through loans of material, the staff of Alberta's resource libraries answered 6,772 Zenith telephone information questions in 1989.


Circulation of Talking Books by Alberta Public Libraries
1980 – 1989
Thousands of Loans
Year
17,080
31,478 (84% increase)
33,372 (6% increase)
39,047 (17% increase)
50,794 (30% increase)
57,224 (13% increase)
72,112 (26% increase)
72,015 (-0.1% decrease)
74,446 (3% increase)
94,884 (27% increase)


Circulation of Multilingual Books to Alberta Public Libraries
1980 – 1989
Thousands of Loans
Year
8,199
10,194 (24% increase)
17,834 (75% increase)
21,662 (21% increase)
25,792 (19% increase)
29,660 (15% increase)
30,973 (4% increase)
33,150 (7% increase)
39,888 (20% increase)
43,305 (9% increase)

Library Development

During the past year the Northern Lights Library Project, guided by the chairperson, Maureen Hall, and with the involvement of many volunteers fulfilled all the legal requirements to become the province's sixth regional library system. The interim board, headed by Dave McCullough, selected the town of Vegreville as its headquarters. Unfortunately, the government was unable to allocate the establishment and operating funding necessary to launch this new system at this time, due to the restraint measures required to balance the provincial budget.

Nevertheless, the Honourable Doug Main stated that "As soon as we can identify the new dollars in a future budget, we will commit to starting the *Northern Lights Library System.*" The local volunteers requested the Minister to form the new board and begin to develop Lloydminster as the resource centre for the system. Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism committed help in terms of personnel, equipment and furniture, and project funding to continue some of the work that has taken place during the project phase.

In the Southwest area of the province (area #5), an energetic interest group led by Donna Dietrich of Lomond, and representing over 122,000 people and 25 public libraries took action to establish the *Chinook Arch Library Project.* With a small project grant from Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism an office has been opened in Lethbridge, project staff has been hired and a survey of the librarians' requirements from the proposed system was completed.

In the Fort McMurray area (#9), the Black Spruce Regional Library Project, headed by Carol Cooley, director of the Fort McMurray Public Library, and Beverley Davies the Community Services Coordinator for ID #18, completed the first phase of a system feasibility study.

The Board has maintained a close interest in all of these developments and congratulates the many Albertans dedicated to improving library services in their communities.

The Board is delighted that the five established regional library systems continued to receive applications and enquiries from municipalities and school boards interested in taking advantage of system services. The Peace MD applied to join the Peace Library System and the town of Grande Cache formally requested membership in the Yellowhead Library System. By year's end, however, it had become necessary for Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism to curtail all system expansion until funding was available.

Comparative data compiled on the five systems show that they are serving 138 public and 308 school libraries (77,000 students) — a total of over 505,096 Albertans. This represents 43.51% of the population of the province living outside Edmonton and Calgary. Together the systems provide 19 core services ranging from acquisitions, technical services and consultation, to telephone reference and referral services. An additional 14 services are provided by one or more of the systems.

Capital Construction

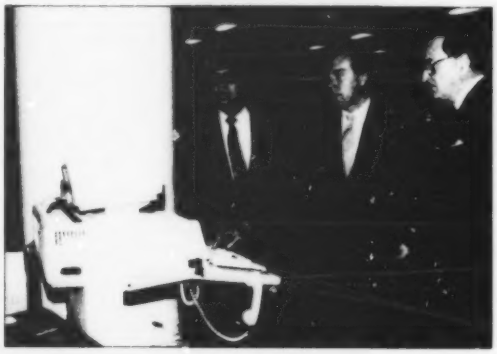
The five library systems moved full steam ahead on the construction of their new headquarters buildings. By year's end, four systems had the foundations laid, walls up and the boards and staff were busy selecting furniture and equipment. The Parkland Regional Library held its official opening in February of 1989 with the Honourable Doug Main and Percy J. Woods, chairman of the Alberta Library Board, among the official dignitaries. The completion of these five magnificent headquarters buildings will mean improved service for members libraries and is a solid example of successful team effort between provincial departments and the System boards and staff. In addition to being busy with building programs, several of the systems made significant progress in the area of automation. Both Peace and Shortgrass selected the DYNIX system in IBM and Hewlett Packard platforms respectively while the Parkland Regional Library opted to go with the MULTILIS system in combination with a 7000 NCR Tower hardware configuration. Meanwhile Marigold successfully delivered diskettes of computer records, downloaded from the main system, to seven libraries using the Columbia circulation system. The Board is pleased to see this use of technology to allow systems to provide client libraries with better service and local libraries to better meet the complex needs of the library user.

Special Moments

The Board attended many library openings throughout the province. These special events provided the Board members with an opportunity to meet with and recognize the contributions made by trustees, staff and volunteers. Parkland, Stony Plain, Tangent and Redwater all moved into new buildings. Major additions or renovations were celebrated by Hanna, Hardisty, Lloydminster, Millet, Athabasca and Clive. Cowley (a branch of Pincher Creek) was opened and the County of Lethbridge formed a new library board. Red Deer and Alix celebrated 75th anniversaries and Sundre commemorated its 40th.

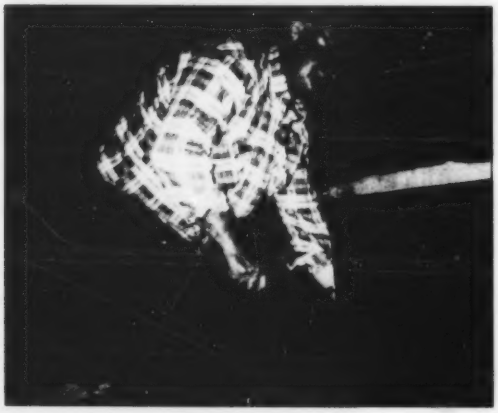
Percy Woods and Mary Lou Rose — opening of Parkland's Headquarters.

Second annual Family Fun Night and 75th anniversary celebration of the Alix Public Library. Sheilagh Ross, Annette Johner and Nancy Kutt.



Doug Ross, chairman of Edmonton Public Library Board, the Honourable Doug Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, and Vince Richards, Director of Edmonton Public Library viewing new equipment.

Honourable John Oldring, Minister of Family and Social Services and Hazel Flewwelling, chairman of the Red Deer Library Board at the 75th anniversary celebration.



Board member John Solodzuk relaxing at Alberta Library Conference in Jasper.

Alberta Public Libraries Futures Conference

This challenging working conference of 200 invited delegates will take place in October 1990 in Calgary. The conference is sponsored by the Alberta Library Board together with the Alberta Library Trustees' Association, the Alberta Public Library Directors' Council and the Library Association of Alberta. All of these organizations are represented on the Planning Committee, which is chaired by Sue Dutton, Alberta Library Board. The other committee members from the above organizations are Wilma Birchill, John Dutton and Jeannette Fish as well as Joe Forsyth, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Library Services Branch, Ron Robertson, Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts and Alberta based futurist, Ruben Nelson.

Using the conference theme of "A Vision for the Future: Planning Change Together" as a guide, the committee has been working to plan an informative and innovative provincial conference aimed at energizing and preparing Alberta's public library community for the future.

> *"From your parents you learn love and laughter and how to put one foot in front of the other. But when books are opened you discover you have wings."*
>
> Helen Hayes

Conclusion

The Board hopes that discussions and proposed actions on volunteer recognition will be finalized in the coming year so that all the dedicated library volunteers can be formally recognized.

Brenda Baron, Administrative Assistant, and Joseph Forsyth, Director of Library Services Branch, have provided cheerful support and assistance — the Board is most appreciative.

1989-1990 was a good year — many new ideas were tried resulting in exciting events in the library community.

> *"About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age."*

Brenda Baron, Administrative Assistant, Joseph Forsyth, Director of Library Services Branch.